

ROYTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE HEALTH
OF ROYTON
1951

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Urban District of Royton
Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

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Town Hall,
Royton.
August, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Sir, Madam,

Although it is my duty to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Royton for the year 1951, the major portion of that period was the immediate concern of your previous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T. Seymour Jones, who left in November to take up another appointment.

It will be noticed that the population continued to decline naturally, as the birth-rate was reduced by 2 per 1,000 population and the death-rate increased by 1 per 1,000 population.

The infant mortality rate remained higher than the national level and was in fact higher than last year. Seven of the nine deaths were due to causes over which we have no immediate control *i.e.*, prematurity and congenital abnormality, although I am of the opinion that given good antenatal care, many premature births can be avoided, with a resultant greater chance of survival. It is indeed pleasing to be able to report that no mother died as a result of giving birth to her child during the year.

Tuberculosis retained the previous years incidence but reversed the sex distribution, there being almost twice as many females as males notified. Although the early diagnosis of the disease can be quite a problem, the unfortunate sufferer seems to be up against even greater ones—especially as regards admission to sanatorium and the provision of suitable housing—both of which are of paramount public health importance.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and to Mr. Cayton and Officers of the Council for their co-operation and courtesy.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council, 1951-52 :

Councillor W. E. CRITCHLEY, J.P.

Health Committee, 1951-52 :

Councillor A. Barker, Chairman.

Councillor C. Livesey, Vice-Chairman.

Councillor W. E. Critchley, J.P.

Councillor C. Heywood.

Councillor S. B. Crosland.

Councillor J. Ogden.

Councillor G. Sherratt.

Councillor G. L. Buckley.

Councillor J. Milne.

Councillor W. Dunkerley.

Councillor B. C. Cook.

Councillor F. W. Burthom.

Councillor C. Atherton.

Councillor T. L. Schofield.

Councillor H. M. Taylor.

Clerk of the Council :

A. Donald Ogden, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health :

T. S. Jones, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(to 11th November, 1951)

E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 12th November, 1951).

Sanitary Inspector :

G. Cayton, M.S.I.A.

Junior Clerk :

Miss I. Butterfield.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1951.

Table I.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	2,149
Population (Census 1931)	16,689
Population (Preliminary Report, 1951)	14,772
Males	6,966
Females	7,806
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1951	14,720
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	4,370
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1951, according to rate books	4,952
Rateable value £84,900.	
Sum represented by a penny rate £357.	

Table II.—Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females		
Legitimate	188	96	92	Birth-rate per 1,000	
Illegitimate	8	7	1	estimated population	
				mid-1951	Crude 13·3
					Adjusted 13·0
Still Births	5	1	4	Rate per 1,000 total	
				(live and still) births	25·0
				Death-rate per 1,000	
				estimated population	
					Crude 15·3
Deaths	225	114	111		Adjusted 15·7
Maternal Mortality—					
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion					Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....					Nil
Infant Mortality—					
Number of infant deaths (under one year)					9
Death-rate of infants—					
All infants per 1,000 live births					46
Neo-natal Mortality—					
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age					7
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births					36
Deaths from Heart Disease					80
Deaths from Cancer.....					25
Deaths from Bronchitis					21
Deaths from Cerebral Hæmorrhage					25

Table III.—Causes of Death during 1951.

	Males.	Females.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	3	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	6	5
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—
16. Diabetes	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20. Other heart disease	22	37
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3
22. Influenza	5	8
23. Pneumonia	6	5
24. Bronchitis	10	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	8
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1
34. All other accidents	2	1
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—
	<hr/> 114	<hr/> 111

Table IV.—Deaths classified in age groups.

Under one year	9
1 — 2 years	1
2 — 5 years	1
5 — 15 years	2
15 — 25 years	—
25 — 45 years	12
45 — 65 years	61
65 — 75 years	72
75 years and upwards	64
Others	3
	<hr/> 225

Table V.—Infantile Deaths and Causes.
under one year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Atelectasis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Circulatory Failure .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Prematurity	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Homicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total...	6	1	...	...	7	...	2	...	...	9

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The control of hospitals passed to the Regional Hospital Board under the provisions of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948.

The hospital provision is now as follows:—

1. Infectious Disease—Westhulme Hospital, Oldham.
2. Smallpox—Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.
3. General—Hospitals in Oldham, Rochdale, Manchester and Salford.
4. Maternity—Boundary Park General Hospital, Oldham.

The nearest Chest Clinic for the treatment of tuberculosis and other chest diseases is at Brook Street, Chadderton. Venereal diseases are treated at the Boundary Park General Hospital, Oldham; The District Infirmary, Ashton; The Municipal Clinic, Baillie Street, Rochdale.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

This service passed to the control of the Lancashire County Council on the 5th July, 1949. Two District Nurses reside in Royton and are available for this area at Holly Bank, Church Street, Royton. Tel. : MAIn 2896.

Midwives.

One midwife, employed by the Lancashire County Council, practices in this area: Mrs. A. Parsons, 54 Milton Street, Royton. Tel. : MAIn 5669.

Home and Domestic Help Scheme.

This service is administered by the Lancashire County Council; several home helps are available. Enquiries should be made to the Divisional Health Office, "Tylon," Middleton Road, Chadderton. Tel. : MAIn 6251.

LABORATORY WORK.

Most of the bacteriological work is now carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Monsall Hospital. Facilities are also available at the laboratory of the Oldham Royal Infirmary and Boundary Park Hospital.

The following are particulars of specimens examined.

	Negative	Positive
Throat Swabs	2	1
Eye Swabs	—	1
Fæces	200	54

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of adoptive Acts relating to Public Health in force in the district with the date of adoption:—

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891) repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (from 1st October, 1891) repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (from 8th April, 1914).

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (4) Infectious Diseases, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Part (6) Recreation Grounds.

The Public Health Act, 1925 (from 1st March, 1926).

Part (2) Streets and Buildings, repealed in part by P.H.A., 1936.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938—Sections 115 and 116 (from 1st April, 1939).

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 303, as against 417, in 1950.

There was an increase in the number of cases of measles, 223 cases being notified. Dysentery notifications were almost similar in number to 1950 but Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough cases showed a marked decrease.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified, the patient subsequently making a full recovery.

There were no cases of diphtheria during 1951. The number of patients removed to an Infectious Disease Hospital was 23 including eight cases of suspected infectious illness; the remaining 15 are classified in the table given below, which also gives details of all notifications of infectious disease received during 1951.

Table VI.—Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1951.

Disease	Total cases of all ages	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District
		Years												
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over	age unkn'n			
Scarlet Fever.....	12	...	...	4	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...
Measles	223	18	66	84	53	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Whooping Cough ...	33	4	9	14	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia	6	...	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	23	...	6	6	3	1	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralatic)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
Infection .....		...		...	...	...	...	...	...		...
Total...	303	22	85	108	68	6	4	5	1	4	...	...	15	...

Table VII.—Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5—	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
10—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	1	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
35—	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45—	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals...	4	7	3	1	1	1	1	...
	11		4		2		1	

Disinfections:—

Forty-two visits were made, and, following recovery or removal to Hospital, 25 rooms in 13 houses were disinfected with formaldehyde. Four sets of bedding were steam disinfected at the Oldham County Borough disinfecting station.

Diphtheria Immunisation:—

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme is now administered by the Lancashire County Council. Regular Clinics are held and the immunisation of children in the district has been well maintained. General medical practitioners co-operate in the scheme.

Table VIII.—Housing.**Statistics for the year 1951.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i)	By the local authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
(ii)	By other local authorities	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	..	.....	.....	.....	1

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	114
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose .....	.....	282
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.....	8
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	.....	16
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	8
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	86

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	69
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	..... Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:—	
	(a) By owners	..... Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	..... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	11
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936: Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	22
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949:—

	Schemes of private bodies or individuals	Schemes of local authority
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted—		
(a) by private individuals to local authority	8	Nil
(b) by local authority to Ministry	8	12
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	9	Nil
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	7	12
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	8	12
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes	8	12
(c) Number of additional separate dwell- ings actually completed during the year	1	18

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
FOR THE YEAR 1951.**

To the Chairman and Members of the
Royton Urban District Council.

Sir, Madam,

I have again the honour to submit the annual report relating to the sanitary circumstances of the area and the progress made during 1951.

Unsatisfactory housing conditions still remain the greatest problem. Over five hundred houses, scheduled for demolition many years ago, continue to deteriorate rapidly and until sufficient new housing accommodation is available for the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts to be resumed, progress must be very slow as only small groups or individual houses are gradually dealt with either by demolition or closing.

In addition, there are numerous houses which, though normally they would have a life of anything from twenty to thirty years, are greatly in need of extensive repairs. The fixed rentals and soaring costs of property repairs make it, in many cases, impossible for this essential re-conditioning to be carried out. Whatever gross neglect on the part of some owners there may have been in the past, the fact remains that this problem was never more acute than it is to-day.

May I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials, my thanks for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

G. CAYTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

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SECTION 1.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water Supply.

The piped water supply of the Oldham County Borough Council covers the greater part of the district of Royton. This piped supply is subject to chlorination.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

There was no important extension of sewerage during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

Regular inspections were made but no major action was required.

(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table gives details of the sanitary accommodation of dwelling-houses in the district at the end of 1951.

Fresh Water Closets	3,684	Cesspools	Nil
Waste Water Closets	816	Dustbins	4,960
Privy Middens	Nil	Dry Ashpits.....	7
Pail Closets	42		

As a result of applications from house-owners, grants were made by the Council in 10 cases towards the cost of converting waste water closets.

(5) Public Cleansing.

Tipping was carried out at the Haggate and Higginshaw Tips.

Collecting motor vehicles numbered two full-time.

The number of loads collected per week averaged 55, the total weight for the year, ended 31st December, 1951, being approximately 5,800 tons.

The scheme for the free provision of dustbins to dwelling-houses operated from the 1st April, 1951. The number of bins supplied from that date to the end of the year was 228.

(6) Sanitary Inspections during 1951 (including Housing).

During the course of the year the following nuisances or defects which were reported upon month by month to the Health Committee, were dealt with. A total number of 509 were remedied in a satisfactory manner within the year

They may be summarised as follows :—

Blocked drains.....	62
Defective drains	10
W.W.C. stoppages	27
W.W.C.'s converted to fresh water W.C.'s	14
Defective W.C.'s	21
Defective W.W.C.'s	4
Defective dustbins renewed	253
Additional dustbins provided	12
Defective downspouts	6
Eaves gutters renewed	14
Burst water service pipes.....	2
Other housing defects	80
Accumulations removed	3
Sink waste pipes renewed	1
	<hr/>
	509
	<hr/>

To secure the remedy of these defects 162 informal notices and 10 statutory notices were served upon owners or agents, in addition to numerous interviews.

(7) Shops and Offices.

285 visits were made under the Shops Act, 1950 on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, relating to hours of employment of young persons and the health and comfort of shop workers. Reports on all visits were forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

No action under the Public Health Act, 1936, was taken relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.

(8) Camping Sites (other than Military).

No sites were used for this purpose for any extended period, making the issue of licenses under the Public Health Act, 1936, unnecessary.

(9) Smoke Abatement.

81 observations of factory chimneys were taken during the year and the management of firms interviewed when found necessary.

(10) Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths in the centre of the district continued to be well patronised. The filtered and chlorinated water was tested at frequent intervals for the determination of residual chlorine and bacteriological cleanliness.

(11) Eradication of Vermin.

No serious infestations occurred during the year.

(12) Rodent Control.

58 premises were inspected entailing 130 visits. Rat and mice infestations were dealt with at 14 premises during the year.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the district, involving the baiting and poisoning of 279 man-holes, were completed during the year, and good results obtained.

(13) Schools.

The result of visits made did not require any special action.

(14) Offensive Trades.

None of these specified trades exist in the area.

(15) Factories Act, 1937.

At the end of the year the number of factories in the district was 101. Of this number 92 were factories with mechanical power, and 9 were factories without mechanical power.

45 inspections were made. Three defects relating to want of cleanliness or insufficient sanitary accommodation were found and remedied during the year.

(16) Common Lodging-Houses.

Only one common lodging-house is registered and this received regular visits.

(17) Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.

No action was necessary during the year.

(18) Priority Material—Certificates.

Certificates relating to 124 premises were issued to contractors to enable them to obtain essential materials.

(19) Health Committee Meetings.

All eleven meetings were attended.

SECTION 2.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1) Milk Supply.

Thirty-six inspections were made under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Apart from local producers there are 46 milk purveyors, registered to sell milk in the district.

The supervision of the production of milk at all dairy farms was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture on the 1st October, 1949.

The Local Authority remain responsible for administering the regulations with regard to the retailing of milk.

Tuberculosis Milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test—19.
Results:—Negative 18, Positive 1.

Bacteriological Examinations—

Number of samples taken—19.
Results:—Satisfactory 18.

The samples were examined for coliform bacilli and the Methylene Blue Reduction Test for keeping quality.

The Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Dealers licenses (including supplementary licenses) granted:—

Tuberculin tested, retail distribution	14
Accredited, retail distribution	Nil
Pasteurised, retail distribution	14
Sterilised, retail distribution	50

(2) Meat and other Foods.

During the year 102 visits were made to butchers' shops, bakehouses and other food premises.

The slaughtering of animals for consumption in Royton continued to be controlled and executed at Oldham, slaughtering in local slaughterhouses ceasing on 14th January, 1940.

One slaughterhouse is licensed for the slaughter of privately-owned pigs and 6 pigs were inspected.

A total weight of 540 lbs. of meat and other foodstuffs was condemned during the year.

(3) Ice Cream.

Forty premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and kept under supervision. 22 visits were made.

(4) Adulteration, etc.

The County Sanitary Officer reported that 52 samples of milk and 25 samples of other foodstuffs were taken in this area during the year.

The following are particulars of the samples:—

3 Tincture of Iodine.	1 Vita Glucose Tablets.
3 Boracic Ointment.	1 Brimstone and treacle.
1 Zinc and Castor Oil Cream	1 Doughnuts.
2 Zinc Ointment.	1 Eccles Cakes.
4 Glauber's Salt.	1 Processed Cheese.
2 Seidlitz Powders.	1 Shortcakes.
1 Seidlitz Powder,	1 Jam Sandwich.
(extra strong)	2 Arrowroot.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample	Result of Analysis.	Action taken
1 Formal Milk	Deficient of 3.5% solids-not-fat.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient of 6.6% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 23.3% fat, 15.7% solids-not-fat and 15.9% extraneous water.	Prosecution Vendor fined.
1 Seidlitz Powder extra strong	Underweight.	Packers commu- nicated with.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by Officers of the Lancashire County Council with my co-operation and assistance.

(5) Clean Food Campaign.

Two meetings of the Clean Food Committee, comprising Food Traders and Council Members, were held. 13 Certificates of Membership to the Association were issued. Copies of the new Food Byelaws in operation from 5th February, 1951, were distributed to all food premises in the district.

